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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
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3 IN RE CUSTOMS AND TAX  
4 ADMINISTRATION OF THE KINGDOM  
5 OF DENMARK  
(SKATTEFORVALTNINGEN) TAX  
REFUND SCHEME LITIGATION,

18 MD 2865 (LAK)

6 Conference  
7 -----x

8 New York, N.Y.  
9 December 16, 2024  
10:30 a.m.

11 Before:  
12 HON. LEWIS A. KAPLAN,

13 District Judge  
14 APPEARANCES

15 HUGHES HUBBARD & REED LLP  
16 Attorneys for Plaintiff SKAT  
17 BY: MARC WEINSTEIN  
18 WILLIAM MAGUIRE  
19 NEIL OXFORD  
20 GREGORY FARRELL

21 KOSTELANETZ & FINK, LLP  
22 Attorneys for the van Merkensteijn Defendants  
23 BY: SHARON McCARTHY  
24 DANIEL DAVIDSON

25 WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP  
Attorneys for Defendants Richard Markowitz, RJM Capital  
Pension Plan  
BY: PETER NEIMAN  
ANDREW DULBERG

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN, LLP  
Attorneys for Defendants Robert Klugman, RAK Investment  
Trust  
BY: MICHAEL M. ROSENSAFT  
DAVID GOLDBERG

Also Present: Max Brown  
Sean Mullen

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1 (Case called)

2 MR. WEINSTEIN: Good morning, your Honor. On behalf  
3 of Plaintiff, Marc Weinstein, Bill Maguire, Neil Oxford, and  
4 Greg Farrell from Hughes Hubbard & Reed.

5 MS. MCCARTHY: Good morning. Sharon McCarthy and Dan  
6 Davidson. And we have Max Brown in the courtroom.

7 THE COURT: Good morning.

8 MR. NEIMAN: Good morning. Peter Neiman, Andrew  
9 Dulberg for the Markowitz defendants.

10 MR. ROSENSAFT: Good morning, your Honor. Michael  
11 Rosensaft and David Goldberg for Mr. Klugman.

12 THE COURT: Good morning. Look, the first thing I  
13 want to say, at the risk of destroying my reputation, is to  
14 express appreciation for all of the amazing hard work that you  
15 all have done, and apparently with considerable amity. And  
16 it's enormously impressive, and I am very appreciative of it.

17 That said, let us move to the question of the proposal  
18 with respect to the handling of exhibits.

19 Let me just make sure I have it in front of me.

20 A good start, but it won't work. First of all, my  
21 deputy, who has been with me 20 years, and Judge Jones long  
22 before that, and has been through an awful lot of complicated  
23 trials, said if he has to mark exhibits, he is going to need a  
24 half a dozen other people, and he still won't be able to do  
25 anything in relation to the trial but mark exhibits. So that

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1 doesn't work, that piece of it, and we have some suggestions.

2           The second thing that I observed was that there would  
3 not be, under your proposal, an indisputably authentic record  
4 of exhibits marked for identification but not received, and  
5 that could happen in a bunch of ways. It could happen because  
6 they were excluded. It could happen because they were marked  
7 and used in some way that did not get them into evidence, such  
8 as showing them to a witness for the purpose of refreshing  
9 recollection. And they could come into existence as  
10 demonstratives that would not go to the jury, would not be  
11 received in evidence and, nevertheless, there might need to be  
12 a record of them. So somehow that's got to be dealt with.

13           Now, my proposal is that before the week is out, your  
14 delegated representatives meet with Andy and come to a better  
15 solution. And I don't think it's impossible. Andy and I have  
16 talked about it, but I am not going to try to prescribe it.  
17 One possible component would be that each side would designate  
18 someone who would initial received exhibits so that any  
19 received exhibit would have two sets of initials on them, but  
20 that's only one idea. There may be other ways. And something  
21 would need to be done to make sure there is a chain of custody  
22 maintained with respect to whatever the final electronic medium  
23 is that contains everything. But Andy and your logistical  
24 folks will better know how to do this than I can do it  
25 extemporaneously, and so I would like to have you do that. And

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1 the product ought to be a stipulation so that there is a  
2 document signed by everybody in the record for this somewhat  
3 unusual way of handling trial exhibits.

4 Any problem with that, folks?

5 MR. WEINSTEIN: No, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: OK. Good. That takes care of that.

7 What is your now best effort as to trial duration?  
8 Because I am going to have to tell prospective jurors.

9 MR. WEINSTEIN: Yes. I think last time we were before  
10 your Honor, we said five to six weeks. I think now we would  
11 say four to five weeks.

12 THE COURT: OK. That's four-day weeks. Four-day  
13 weeks.

14 MR. WEINSTEIN: I'm sorry, I thought you said four to  
15 eight. Yes.

16 THE COURT: Yes. All right. That's useful.

17 Now, I take it that there is pretty much nothing ripe  
18 for decision with respect to the summary exhibits. My  
19 understanding is that as to the plan formation and first trade  
20 exhibits, that's really off the table because the plaintiff has  
21 given the quid pro quo required for the defendants to withdraw  
22 their objection on the plaintiffs' exhibits in that category.  
23 Is that right?

24 MR. DULBERG: Your Honor, this is Drew Dulberg for the  
25 Markowitz defendants. I don't think that's right. The

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1 objection that the defendants have is that the exhibits  
2 themselves are argumentative because they include a column of  
3 funds in the pension plan's account at the time that they began  
4 trading.

5 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you for reminding me. That's  
6 overruled.

7 And on the trading charts, where are we?

8 MR. DULBERG: I think we are OK on the trading charts,  
9 your Honor, although, Mr. Weinstein may correct me.

10 MR. WEINSTEIN: No. Subject to any side finding  
11 little errors, conceptually we are fine with the trading charts  
12 on both sides, I believe.

13 THE COURT: And does that include objections with  
14 respect to the Elysium documents or not?

15 MR. DULBERG: No. The defendants maintain and  
16 preserve all objections to the admissibility of the Elysium  
17 documents, but we understand the Court has ruled on that  
18 through the motion in limine.

19 THE COURT: If there is any desire to preserve any  
20 Rule 807 basis for admissibility, I note that the rule requires  
21 a notice. And while I think it's reasonably clear as to what  
22 everybody is doing, a belt-and-suspenders approach might  
23 warrant a notice.

24 As to the letter dated Friday night, I haven't had  
25 enough time to think about it yet, so I am not going to do

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1 anything with respect to that.

2 I hesitate to broach the subject, but we have all  
3 spent a lot of time thinking about how a jury would handle this  
4 case and, indeed, whether we could enlist 12 people who would  
5 be willing to sit for four or five weeks in the middle of  
6 winter.

7 Is it still going to be the case that it's a jury  
8 trial, or is there any movement on that subject?

9 MR. WEINSTEIN: No movement, but in fairness, that  
10 really has not been broached amongst the parties.

11 THE COURT: Consider it to have been broached.

12 MR. WEINSTEIN: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Now, look, I take -- I don't want to know  
14 who objects, if anybody objects. You all have a right to a  
15 jury trial, and I am going to give it to you if there is  
16 anybody who wants it. And I don't care. And from my point of  
17 view, a jury trial has the grand advantage of being over when  
18 the verdict comes in and nothing more for me to do. So I don't  
19 view a bench trial as necessarily the most desirable thing in  
20 the world here, but it might make this trial shorter and easier  
21 and less expensive, and you know all the arguments. I don't  
22 have to tell you what they are. If it's going to be non-jury,  
23 I mean, I would take the jury waiver as late as the morning we  
24 start or even into the trial, but it would make life simpler,  
25 if it were ultimately going to be waived, to learn that sooner

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1 rather than later.

2 MR. WEINSTEIN: We will confer with the defense on  
3 that, your Honor, this week and try to get to the Court as soon  
4 as we can.

5 THE COURT: OK.

6 MR. WEINSTEIN: May I go back for a moment?

7 THE COURT: Please.

8 MR. WEINSTEIN: Your Honor raised the 1006 charts  
9 first.

10 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

11 MR. WEINSTEIN: I think you have discussed the  
12 plaintiffs' Rule 1006 charts. There are a bunch of proposed  
13 defense 1006 charts, and there is some correspondence to the  
14 Court on that as well. I don't know if your Honor has had a  
15 chance to --

16 THE COURT: Well, some of that was on Friday, right?

17 MR. WEINSTEIN: No. Friday, the only -- two things  
18 came in Friday. One was about the, you know, handling of  
19 electronic exhibits, and one was about Mr. Shah's conviction.

20 THE COURT: I meant the 11th.

21 MR. WEINSTEIN: Yes. So that is -- yes, ECF 1249.

22 THE COURT: That's the one I have not had time to deal  
23 with.

24 MR. WEINSTEIN: Understood.

25 THE COURT: And I will try to do it quickly.

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1                   Anything else that we can usefully discuss?

2                   MR. NEIMAN: Your Honor, we do have a couple of issues  
3 we don't need to resolve today, but we want to tee them up for  
4 you because I think it would be very useful to get them  
5 resolved in advance of trial.

6                   You know, the parties have spent a lot of time  
7 exchanging proposed jury instructions. It was a productive  
8 exercise. And there is one issue, I think, that we want to  
9 call your Honor's attention to that, you know, is a core legal  
10 dispute between the parties that, if you went our way, probably  
11 would cut the length of the trial in half roughly. And I think  
12 both sides would benefit from knowing the answer to that  
13 question in advance of openings, and that's the issue related  
14 to pension qualification.

15                  Happy to address it now if you are ready, but I assume  
16 you are not, and happy to submit briefing if that would be  
17 helpful.

18                  THE COURT: Well, look, I have that on my list too,  
19 and I certainly understand why you raised it. And I want to  
20 make sure I brought down the right note.

21                  Isn't the issue of qualification academic if there is  
22 a determination -- and we will start with the easy one -- of  
23 fraud based on ownership of shares, entitlement to the  
24 dividend? I don't see that the plaintiff needs the  
25 qualification issue in order to recover. And if there is no

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1       fraud, I don't see how it helps them. And so I rather thought  
2       there was some merit to the defense's position on that.

3                   So what do you got to say?

4                   MR. WEINSTEIN: I agree with your Honor, the first  
5       part of what your Honor said. So if there is a finding of  
6       fraud on ownership, it would be unnecessary to get to that  
7       issue. If there is not a finding of fraud on ownership, the  
8       issue is, on what basis.

9                   We can expect the defense to argue, or they may argue  
10      the shares existed. But let's say there is a false statement  
11      as to ownership, but they are going to argue they had no  
12      scienter, they didn't intend to defraud, they didn't know what  
13      was happening behind the scenes. So even if it's false, you  
14      can't hit us for fraud. We still would, on the other basis,  
15      have the argument that both statements were false, and even --  
16      meaning the ownership and the plan qualification. And even if  
17      the jury were to find no scienter as to the ownership, they  
18      certainly can find scienter as to the pension plans themselves  
19      and their qualification. Those were things that were  
20      exclusively in the control of the defendants.

21                  THE COURT: Mr. Neiman.

22                  MR. NEIMAN: Well, your Honor, there's two sets of  
23       issues here. The first is, What is the jury told they need to  
24       find in order to find for the plaintiffs? And we would  
25       suggest, for reasons we laid out in the jury instruction

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1 submissions, that a finding only on the pension issue would not  
2 be sufficient to satisfy the plaintiffs' burden.

3 THE COURT: And review for me why that's so, in your  
4 view.

5 MR. NEIMAN: There are two reasons, your Honor. There  
6 is a plain language of the treaty reason. The treaty says  
7 whether exempt from tax or not and, therefore, it couldn't be  
8 materially false to say that they were a tax exempt plan  
9 because it's not a requirement that they be tax exempt. So for  
10 that reason, it wouldn't be sufficient to establish a material  
11 false statement.

12 And second, I think if the only misrepresentation you  
13 had in the case were the pension misrepresentation, the only  
14 consequence of that would be in the quantum of refund that was  
15 due and not whether a refund is due. And a fight about the  
16 quantum of refund that is due is exactly the kind of fight the  
17 revenue rule doesn't permit them to bring.

18 For that reason, the jury should not be instructed  
19 that such a misrepresentation would be sufficient to establish  
20 their case. And then I think once -- if we are right about  
21 that, your Honor, then I think there are enormous 403 problems  
22 with turning this case into a trial about the truth or falsity  
23 of some other representation as to which our clients received  
24 enormous amounts of legal advice. Literally, it's going to be  
25 half the testimony in the case, and as to which -- just to

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1 situate this for your Honor, the representation in question is  
2 actually not even coming out of our clients' mouths.

3 What happens is, in order to qualify under the treaty,  
4 you need to prove residence, and in order to prove residence,  
5 you need to submit an application to the IRS and get a form  
6 that the IRS sends back. And the form, which is the IRS's  
7 language, not ours, says, to the best of the IRS's knowledge,  
8 this is a qualified pension plan. I am paraphrasing. And so  
9 what they want to be able to do is to show our mens rea for  
10 having elicited that statement from the IRS. And everything we  
11 sent to the IRS was 100 percent true, and that statement is 100  
12 percent true. So it's very remote from mens rea. It is going  
13 to be extraordinarily complex, and it isn't sufficient by  
14 itself to establish material falsity. So for all those  
15 reasons, we think it should not be in this trial.

16 MR. WEINSTEIN: It is sufficient to establish falsity.  
17 The treaty -- despite the language that Defendants have cited  
18 to, we put into, you know, one of the various footnotes of the  
19 very lengthy jury instructions --

20 THE COURT: The technical reports.

21 MR. WEINSTEIN: Yes. And the response to that -- at  
22 some point, you have to cut off when you do a joint file on who  
23 keeps going back and forth. So the language in the 2006 treaty  
24 is no different than the language in the 2000 treaty with  
25 respect to the language that Mr. Neiman just quoted about

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1 whether it's tax exempt or not.

2 So it hasn't been superseded. The technical  
3 explanation is what that language was intended for. The treaty  
4 didn't change. The same language that he is saying was in the  
5 2006 treaty was in the 2000 treaty. There is not a superseding  
6 of the language in the treaty. So the explanation still  
7 applies.

8 With respect to the false statement itself, by asking  
9 for a 27 percent -- the full refund as opposed to the half,  
10 that is a representation under the treaty that you are a  
11 qualified pension plan because that's what you have to be in  
12 order to get that amount of money.

13 THE COURT: Based on your interpretation of the  
14 treaty.

15 MR. WEINSTEIN: Well, not just mine, but the  
16 Government's of the United States.

17 THE COURT: And that is a statement by the Government  
18 of the United States that was or was not joined in by the  
19 Government of Denmark?

20 MR. WEINSTEIN: That's a good question that I don't  
21 offhand -- I don't have it in front of me, so I don't know  
22 offhand. I can't answer that right here.

23 THE COURT: If it were not, Justice Scalia would have  
24 said you don't look at it, right, because it's like a committee  
25 report on a piece of legislation.

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1                   MR. WEINSTEIN: Your Honor, in fairness, I would have  
2 to go back and look and provide the Court a better answer on  
3 that. So we can put in some writing on this. Didn't realize  
4 it was going to come up today, but --

5                   THE COURT: No, but it's a point we have already  
6 started thinking about.

7                   MR. WEINSTEIN: Yep.

8                   THE COURT: Because we actually do read the footnotes.

9                   All right. If you both want to submit something on  
10 this, I would be happy to have it between -- I mean, you work  
11 out a schedule, but you need to get it to me by the 23rd at the  
12 latest. Let me know what the schedule is, please.

13                  What else?

14                  MS. MCCARTHY: Your Honor, in the pretrial order, we  
15 tried to come to an agreement on translations. Throughout the  
16 depositions in this case, which there were many, and they took  
17 place in Copenhagen, many over, you know, Zoom, we used  
18 uncertified translations. And so to the extent that we are  
19 offering depositions of, you know -- portions of depositions of  
20 people where there were translations at issue, those are going  
21 to be uncertified translations.

22                  For some reason, SKAT is not willing to agree with us  
23 that if we don't have a dispute over the uncertified  
24 translation, that it's fine if we need to --

25                  THE COURT: If you don't have what?

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1 MS. McCARTHY: We don't have a dispute over the  
2 content of an uncertified translation, that we can offer an  
3 uncertified translation into evidence, if it comes to that.

4 So I would just like to try to work this out now  
5 because it's going to be an enormously expensive proposition if  
6 we are required to go back now, so close to trial, and get  
7 things certified.

8 THE COURT: Especially over Christmas.

9 MS. McCARTHY: Correct.

10 THE COURT: What about it?

11 MR. WEINSTEIN: That was how they decided to do a lot  
12 of these depositions, and it actually caused a problem, and we  
13 noted this a number of times during depositions, where the  
14 translation isn't necessarily correct. They are asking a  
15 question in English based on an incorrect translation that the  
16 interpreter -- and, I'm sorry -- yes, the interpreter on their  
17 own has to now adopt as the question, and it's being put to a  
18 witness who is preferring to read the Danish. So it creates an  
19 issue.

20 It's hard to say in advance would we have no problem  
21 with an uncertified translation unless we knew which one we are  
22 talking about. They have a lot of Danish documents on this  
23 exhibit list. That's another issue. There is so much in this  
24 exhibit list and deposition designations that are, obviously,  
25 not permitted based on your Honor's various rulings. So for us

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1 to go and just look at every uncertified translation they put  
2 on a list and say we don't have an issue, that's a lot of work.  
3 Most of the time they are probably focusing on one or two  
4 sentences. So unless we knew more, we certainly can't agree to  
5 uncertified translations are fine.

6 THE COURT: So Ms. McCarthy, why can't you pinpoint  
7 the ones that you think you have a problem with?

8 MS. MCCARTHY: We will, your Honor. And to the extent  
9 there is not a disagreement, then we would ask that the  
10 pretrial order be amended so that we can agree that if there is  
11 no dispute over the contents of an uncertified translation,  
12 that it can be used as evidence.

13 THE COURT: I can tell you from a lot of years of  
14 experience how many -- a number of horror stories about this  
15 problem, including the president of a French company who sat on  
16 that witness stand being cross-examined in a case where he was  
17 resisting an enforcement of a contract that he had negotiated  
18 in Brooklyn, in English, which, to be more precise, it was  
19 negotiated by lawyers in English in his presence, and he  
20 claimed he was taken advantage of because it was an English  
21 language document and an English language negotiation. And the  
22 parties each had their own interpreter in court, and there were  
23 disputes over the interpretations of the testimony. And during  
24 a lengthy wrangle between the lawyers, the witness looked at me  
25 and said, "Judge, it would be so much easier if the lawyers

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would let me testify in English."

We don't want to have that happen in this case, of course. There are other stories which I will share with you at some point at a bar association meeting over a drink. But anyhow, I am sure you will work it out.

MR. GOLDBERG: David Goldberg for Mr. Klugman. One additional item on the translations. This may be something that I want to add onto our list to work out, if possible. There are a number of documents that may have evidentiary value untranslated. SKAT conducted extensive investigations in Danish, and the jury may benefit from seeing that, the mere fact that the investigation happened, a date, and elsewhere.

So the pretrial order doesn't speak to that issue, but we just wanted to make sure that that was preserved and on our agenda for discussions because we would certainly be looking to offer some of those documents in support of our defenses as well.

THE COURT: That's at a level of generality that I can't cope with here today because I am having a hard time imagining a document that would have evidentiary value to a jury if produced in Danish.

MR. GOLDBERG: Just, for example -- and it goes to the issue of the expense of the translations in Danish in particular. If it were Spanish, it would be different. But we know from past experience that it was \$48,000 to translate 21

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1 documents -- 21 pages. SKAT conducted investigations in Danish  
2 for each of the pension plans starting in 2015, after receiving  
3 the whistleblower tip, et cetera, and those -- they have  
4 produced it. It's their file to us. There is no dispute that  
5 there is an investigatory file starting in 2015. And some of  
6 this is in English, but to translate this would be hundreds of  
7 thousands of dollars per plan. It's simply impossible to do.

8 We would like the opportunity to discuss with SKAT and  
9 propose for your Honor's resolution, if necessary, if there is  
10 a dispute, the idea that we could proffer to the jury some of  
11 these investigatory files, their files.

12 THE COURT: You certainly have my permission to  
13 discuss with SKAT anything you want to discuss with them.

14 MR. GOLDBERG: Very well.

15 THE COURT: Which brings me to the last item on my  
16 agenda.

17 I know there have been -- I don't know anything about  
18 them, but I know there have been some attempts at resolving all  
19 or part of this matter. Seems to me we might be getting to the  
20 time where those efforts, if they are ever going to happen,  
21 should get into gear, and possibly particularly in light of the  
22 events of last week. You are all great lawyers, and you know  
23 it as well as I know it. But just a word on that.

24 MR. WEINSTEIN: Your Honor, two issues. One is, on  
25 the Elysium documents, there's, at least in our minds, some

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1 uncertainty at this point on what, if anything, SKAT will need  
2 to do at trial, as opposed to all the briefing we have put on  
3 these to your Honor, with respect to the admissibility. And  
4 what I mean by that is, with respect to their authenticity -- I  
5 understand -- it's not -- they preserved objections, but they  
6 understand the Court's ruling.

7 So we would need to do the following: One, call a  
8 witness from Deloitte just to discuss, you know, having gotten  
9 the Court order to go seize, and images of stuff that they did  
10 that, how they did it; and then, secondly, to the extent there  
11 is still an objection on authenticity grounds, we will have one  
12 of our experts literally have to go through -- we put it in a  
13 briefing to the Court -- but start to show the jury the  
14 matching of, Here's documents that the defendants themselves  
15 got; they match the ones that are in the Elysium database. And  
16 there's all sorts of different things that the expert can tick  
17 and tie. It seems to me it's not the best use of the jury's  
18 time.

19 So I just want to get clarity as to what -- at this  
20 point, are there ongoing objections for which we are going to  
21 have to do those things? That was one thing, and then there is  
22 one other.

23 MR. DULBERG: The answer is yes. Like every other  
24 party seeking to introduce evidence, the plaintiff needs to  
25 establish authenticity and foundation and relevance, and so

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1 that's the burden.

2           There have been millions of pages produced,  
3 purportedly from a database seized in Dubai. Many of the files  
4 in this production are unintelligible, are unrelated.  
5 Certainly, the ones that match the defendants' account  
6 statements, we have no objection to their admissibility. It's  
7 documents that the defendants in this case have never seen that  
8 the plaintiff says were seized from some source in Dubai and  
9 needs to lay a foundation in order to admit into evidence.

10          THE COURT: Mr. Weinstein, are there any documents  
11 that might be used at the trial by the plaintiff that the  
12 defendants have never seen?

13          MR. WEINSTEIN: Well, not -- I think what Mr. Dulberg  
14 meant is that at the -- contemporaneously their clients haven't  
15 seen them. They certainly have seen them now for years. I  
16 think what he is saying is some set of records the defendants  
17 themselves got from Solo, so there is, of course, no objection  
18 to those, even though identical ones were seized. However, the  
19 trades that they say they never saw at the time, I believe  
20 that's the ones that Mr. Dulberg is saying he would still  
21 object.

22          THE COURT: This is trades in the loop pertaining to  
23 their accounts? Is that what we are talking about?

24          MR. WEINSTEIN: Correct, and account statements and  
25 the like that are the exact same kind of records that they

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1 received, that tie to bank records that we are going to have to  
2 put in the case to show that these things tie. That's exactly  
3 right, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Look, I commend to both of you two  
5 decisions in this district. One is *Chevron Corporation v.*  
6 *Donziger*, 974 F.2d 362 at 689 to 693, and *United States v.*  
7 *Prevezon Holdings*, 319 F.R.D. 459 at 465 to 68. And I think  
8 those cases are firmly in my mind, and it's only fair to tell  
9 you that, and you can figure out what you need.

10 Ms. McCarthy.

11 MS. MCCARTHY: Not on this issue. Are we done on this  
12 issue?

13 MR. WEINSTEIN: On this issue, I have nothing further.  
14 We will, obviously, take those into account.

15 THE COURT: The first one had to do with getting into  
16 evidence what appeared to be bank records from an Ecuadorian  
17 bank which one side wouldn't agree were even bank records, let  
18 alone authentic, and so forth.

19 MR. WEINSTEIN: It's, to some extent, a preview as to  
20 why we might be taking some jury time on these issues, but --

21 THE COURT: Look, I understand that, but if it becomes  
22 apparent that there is a ruling or two on a couple of these  
23 documents, I would imagine that would set the scene for not  
24 having to go through it more than a couple of times.

25 MR. WEINSTEIN: The second thing --

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1                   THE COURT: And I don't have enough facts to make that  
2 ruling right now.

3                   MR. WEINSTEIN: Just on the timing of your Honor's  
4 rulings on deposition designations, the objections to them.  
5 The only reason I am raising this for SKAT's case is we need to  
6 cut the videos of them. I don't know if -- if the Court is  
7 going to do it at trial, it takes some time to --

8                   THE COURT: Given the volume of stuff in this trial,  
9 it would be unreasonable to believe that I am going to go  
10 through hundreds of pages of deposition designations and make  
11 rulings line by line in advance of trial. Just unreasonable.  
12 OK.

13                  MS. McCARTHY: Two small issues, your Honor. One is  
14 that our client, John van Merkensteijn, is 80 years old and not  
15 well. He will be here for parts of the trial, but he won't be  
16 here every day. He just can't do it. I was wondering if the  
17 Court gives any sort of instruction to the jury about the need  
18 for the defendants to be in the courtroom, or what -- that they  
19 shouldn't make any assumptions if they don't see people here.  
20 Is there -- would you like me to draft something and propose it  
21 to the Court?

22                  THE COURT: I will consider anything you draft.

23                  MS. McCARTHY: Very good.

24                  The second issue, your Honor, is one that I know is  
25 very sensitive to the Court involving personal phones. We have

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1 provided to the Court a proposed order, I believe, already for  
2 electronic devices, our computers and things like that, to come  
3 into the courtroom. We understand, and we hope that we will be  
4 provided with a room somewhere in the courthouse where we can  
5 have our, you know, binders, and we can meet and confer after  
6 the trial day or during breaks.

7 I would ask that the Court -- the Court may not know  
8 this, but downstairs, the CSOs are very well trained. They ask  
9 us, "Which judge are you going to see?" And if we say  
10 Judge Kaplan, even if we have a court pass, they take our phone  
11 because you don't allow it in the courtroom, which we all are  
12 honoring, and there is no way we are going to violate that  
13 rule. But --

14 THE COURT: You have made my day.

15 MS. McCARTHY: We will need to have it in that room,  
16 Judge, because for our computer system, I cannot log into my  
17 firm's files without my phone as a second authentication.

18 THE COURT: Right. Sure.

19 Andy, have we made arrangements for a plaintiffs' and  
20 a defense room yet?

21 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Yes. We are going to have access  
22 for the jury room to 26A and for the jury room to 24B.

23 THE COURT: OK. Two nice big rooms.

24 MS. McCARTHY: OK. So do you want us to submit a  
25 separate order that permits us to bring the phones in, even

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1 though we are coming to see you, or will --

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 Andy, do we need to do that?

4 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Judge, I think a memo to the CSOs  
5 allowing the people to otherwise be able to bring in their  
6 phones, that they can keep them, and the attorneys knowing that  
7 they have to be left in the war rooms --

8 THE COURT: OK. We will send a memo downstairs today.

9 MS. McCARTHY: Thank you so much.

10 THE COURT: OK. Great. I won't see you before  
11 New Year's, but Merry Christmas and happy new year.

12 (Adjourned)

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